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SB 1264, SD-1

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Statement for
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Public Hearing 11 March 1977

by
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SB 1264, SD-1 would make one amendment to the State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) law, Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This statement is based on previous Environmental Center reviews of EIS legislation proposed in this session (HB 119, HB 125, HB 368, and HB 586 [RL:0194]; HB 1065 [RL:0200]; and SB 1264 [RL:0217]). Our earlier statements have already been reviewed by the Legislative Subcommittee of the Center. Neither they nor this statement, however, represent an institutional position of the University.

The one amendment proposed in SB 1264 would add, to the list of categories of private action requiring EIS attention, those "actions proposing any other use within a county which a county council may, by ordinance, designate as subject to the requirements of this chapter." The effect of this amendment would be to allow any county to extend the use of the State EIS system within that county.

As indicated in the report of the Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation (Standing Committee Report 307), there was no disagreement among those testifying on the original version of SB 1264 that the amendment now proposed was appropriate. There seems to be no question that the amendment will be useful. We consider it worth calling to your attention, however, the fact that the various parties who have testified on EIS legislation before the Senate Committee on Environment, Ecology and Recreation and before the House Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, representing diverse interests, seem to have reached agreement on a broader array of potential improvements to the present EIS law. We expect this broader array to be reflected in HB 1065, HD 1, but this draft has not yet been printed.